राज्य स्तर और क्षेत्रीय स्तरों पर संगोष्ठियां और बैठकें आयोजित की जाती हैं।

Amount spent for Air travel

6233. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 663 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th February, 1994 and state:

(a) what is the total amount spent for air travel during the year 1992 and 1993 by BCCL; and

(b) the facts in detail with month-wise breakups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) In Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., there is no system of separate booking of expenditure for air travel,. rail travel, taxi hire chares etc. Besides there are about 30 pay centres scattered at different places of the country. For ascertaining details of expenditure on air travel, all vouchers are to be scrutinized. Thus it is felt that the resources, time and effort required in collecting and compiling this information may not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be achieved.

Unpaid dues of CIL workers

6234: SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Miinster of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) how many retired workers of Coal India Limited were not paid the gratuity till date;

(b) by when they will get their dues:

(c) why LTC of workers are unpaid for the last two years; and

(d) what is the total amount still remain unpaid and by when it will be paid to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) 5849 retired workers of Coal India Limited are yet to be paid gratuity due to pendency of disciplinary action/vigilance enquiry against them, disputes regarding amount of gratuity, non-submission of applications by the claimants or their nominees and non-payment of companies dues. An additional reason in the case of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. is poor liquidity position.

(b) The payment will be released to the workers after meeting the requirements of gratuity payment rules. In Eastern Coalfields Ltd., payment will also depend on liquidity position.

(c) Payment of LTC to workers is pending due to shortage of funds in the case of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. Central Coalfields Ltd. and Western Coalfields Ltd.

(d) In Bharat Coking Coal Limited and Central Coalfields Ltd., an amount of Rs. 3286.83 lakh and Rs. 280 lakh. respectively is yet to be paid to the workers on account of LTC. In Western Coalfields Ltd., release of funds for the year 1993-94 is under process. The coal companies are taking steps to clear the dues as early as posible.

Test of 'G' OCP coal in BSP

6235. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal from 'G' OCP has been successfully tested in the blast furnace of Bokaro Steel Plant after beneficiation and carbonisation in Kumbraj type of coke oven;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the tests; and

(c) what are the future plan of Government to use the 'G' OCP coals in the steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Beneficiated coal from Golukdih Opencast Pro-

ject (GOCP) of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) was tested in the test coke ovens of Bokaro Steel plant. Testing was done with a view to evaluating the properties of coke for its use in steel plants.

(b) The findings of the test ere positive and Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has agreed to accept washed coal from GOCP with ash below 17.5 per cent for use to the extent of 10 per cent in the coal blend.

(c) Coal India Limited have decided to set up a washery on "Build-own-operate" basis for beneficiation of coal from Golukdih Opencast Project for supply to steel plants.

Chari Committee's recommendations on coking coal

6236. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formed a committee for the augmentation of coking coals for steel industry under the chairmanship of Shri K. S. R. Chari;

(b) whether the Chari Committee submitted any recommendations for immediate implemenation; and

(c) if so, what are the main recommendations and what steps Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a committee under the chairmanship of Shri K.S.R. Chair was formed by Coal India Limited (CIL) in July, 1989 to review the requirement and availability of metallurgical coals for steel plants. The report of the committee became available in October, 1990.

(c) The main recommendations of the committee and the steps taken thereon by CIL are given in the statement.

Statement

Recommendations	Action Taken
(i) Reclassification of coking coal based on the coking as well as petrographic characteristics	(i) CIL has supplied necessary data to Bureau of Indian Standards for the purpose of reclassification.
(ii) Utilisation of Low Volatile Medium Coking Coal in Steel plants.	(ii) Laboratory as well as plant Scale washability tests have been carried out in respect of such coals. Some of the low volatile coking coal from jharia coalfield have been found suitable after they are washed to 17.5% ash level.
(iii) Modification of existing washeries as per the recommendations of the technical committee.	(iii) Modification work is under implementation.
(iv) Increased utilisation of low ash high sulphur coal from north eastern region by steel plants.	(iv) CIL has taken steps to increase the supply of low ash coal from north eastern region to steel plants.